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REMARKS**A. Claim Amendments**

Claims 1, 3-5, 7, 8, 13, 14, and 19-48 are presented for examination. Claims 2, 6, 9-12, and 15-18 were previously canceled in a prior Office Action Response. No claims are amended.

B. Specification Amendments

In a telephone interview, the Examiner requested identification of support for the claim limitation specifying that the destination device instructs the input device where to store the input data. Applicants pointed out that support for this limitation is most clearly shown on page 3, line 23 to page 4, line 1 of the specification, wherein it states:

"The input device receives a request from the destination device and transmits the input data to a location based on the request".

and on page 4, lines 18-21, wherein it states:

"The apparatus initiates transmission of the input data by notifying the destination device that data is ready for transmission, receives a request from the destination device, and transmits the input data to a location based on the request from the destination device".

Both of these citations are in the Summary section of the specification of the Application, and the Examiner agreed that these statements provided sufficient support, but requested that they be repeated in the Best Mode section of the specification. Applicants respectfully put forth that recitation of this limitation in the Summary section is sufficient to support the limitation in the claims. Nonetheless, to in an effort to move this application forward, Applicants agreed to repeat the summary statement in the Best Mode section of the specification. Therefore, the present Specification amendment essentially copies the statement from page 4, lines 18-21 of the Summary section to the paragraph beginning on page 10, line 17 of the Best Mode section of the specification.

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C. Office Action Objections and Rejections

The Office Action Summary sheet of the Office Action mailed September 22, 2004 states that the current Office Action is non-final, but the text of the Office Action states that the current Office Action is final. In a telephone interview, Examiner Nguyen explained that the designation of the present Office Action had been changed from Non-Final to Final, and that a supplemental summary sheet would be mailed.

Applicants are a bit surprised by the present Office Action being designated as Final since it appears to Applicants that no substantive search on the status of the claims since the filing of the RCE has yet been made. That is, both the immediately previously filed Office Action of March 4, 2004 and the current Office Action of September 22, 2004 appear to overlook main limitations of the claim language and repeat rejections given in Office Actions prior to the RCE. Specifically, the Office Actions repeatedly cite the internal computer structure of a server in the Unno reference as reading on the computer network and file transfer architecture of the present application. That is, in the Office Action mailed July 30, 2003, (paper 24), it became clear that the Examiner was interpreting the "input device" and "destination device" as being part of a single machine (i.e. internal components of the single machine's architecture), despite the fact that the preamble of claim 1 specified that the "input device" and "destination device" were part of a network for remote execution of an application. To remove any unintended ambiguity and to clarify that the "input device" and the "destination device" are separate from each other, Response D amended the preamble of claim 1 to state that "said destination device is external and separate from said input device", and an RCE was filed soon thereafter to have this claims considered.

However, the Office Action of March 4, 2004 (paper 29) again ignored this limitation and cited the internal sub-components of Unno's server to read on the file transfer method among multiple independent machines on a network recited in the present claims. At this point, Applicants contacted the Examiner in an effort to ascertain why this feature was being overlooked. The Examiner explained that perhaps the confusion was arising from the choice of name for an address. Specifically, the Examiner appeared to have assumed that the recited

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"destination address" identified the address of the "destination device", and explained that this assumption made interpretation of the claim difficult. Applicants pointed out that claim language clearly stated that the "destination address" was not the address of the "destination device". Rather, Applicants pointed out that claim 1 recited that,

"...a destination address for a remote storage device accessible over said network and remote from said input device and said destination device"

Applicants therefore assumed that it was clear from the claim language that the "destination device" is the address of the "remote storage device" and that the remote storage device is defined as being remote from the "input device" and the "destination device". Thus, it was unclear to applicants how the "destination address" could be interpreted to be anything but the address of the "remote storage device". Nonetheless, in compliance with the Examiner's verbal request, the name "destination address for a remote storage device" was changed to "address for a remote storage device". Applicants then submitted Remarks E on June 2, 2004 with a summary statement of the amendments and the items of confusion the amendments addressed. Applicants fully expected a new Office Action that would properly consider the recited claim limitations.

Instead, the Office Action of September 22, 2004 again ignored the limitations of the claims that recite that the "destination device" and "input device" are separate devices on a network, and rejected the claims citing the same Unno prior art and making reference to the internal architecture of a single machine. Furthermore, the Office Action explains that the Office Action was made Final because,

"Applicant recited sending the "destination address", which was not sending an "address of a remote storage device". ... [and that this amendment] necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action..."

Applicants strongly object at this reasoning, and point out that the claim language prior to any change already recited "a destination address for a remote storage device" such that the limitation of the address being for a remote storage

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device was not added or changed by any amendment. The amendment merely changed the name of the address, from "destination address" to "address", and this change was made at the Examiner's request. Applicants respectfully put forth that changing a name at the Examiners request while maintaining its definition unchanged, does not introduce new matter for consideration. Applicants therefore believe that it is improper for the present Office Action to be made Final, and request reconsideration of this designation.

In response to the present Office Action of September 22, 2004, Applicants contacted the Examiner for clarification of why the limitations of the present claims were again being ignored, and why the Office Action was being made Final. The Examiner explained that she would bring up the "Final" designation with her supervisors, but could not change it at this time. As to why the limitations in the claim language were being ignored, a full answer was not readily found. The Examiner suggested in the overlooked limitations should again be recited in the present Office Action, and that the claim paragraphs where the limitations are found be identified.

Thus, Applicants respectfully point out that the preamble of claim 1, recites, "a network including a destination device and an input device, wherein said destination device is external and separate from said input device". Thus, Applicants request that the limitation of the destination device and the input device being separate devices on a network be considered. Applicants further point out that this limitation existed since the filing of the RCE request.

Applicant further respectfully point out that claim 1 recites, "a destination address for a remote storage device accessible over said network and remote from said input device and said destination device". Applicants therefore respectfully request that the limitation of the remote storage device being on the network and separate from the input device and the destination device be considered.

Item 4 of the Office Action appeared to say that the claims merely recited the use of jpeg, bitmap, and other formats. Applicants respectfully point out that claim 3 does merely suggest the use of such well known file formats. Rather claim 3 requires that upon receiving a request, the input device convert the

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current format of the input data to a requested format prior to sending it to the storage device. This procedure is not taught or suggested in the prior art.

In the telephone interview, the Examiner requested further clarification of some elements of the claim elements. Specifically, the Examiner point out that claims 1 recites "having said input device receive input data", and requested clarification of where the input data comes from. Applicants point out that the specification explains that the input data may be generated in one of many ways. For example, the data may be generated by a scanner, camera, fax machine, etc (page 9, line 20 of the specification). The source of the input data is not critical to the present invention.

The Examiner also requested clarification of how the destination device should know to contact the input device to instruct the input device where to store the input data. In a first method recited in the specification, the input device informs the destination device that input data is ready, or being prepared. The destination device then instructs the input device where to store the input data (page 3, line 21 to page 4, line 1).

Applicants respectfully request that the full limitations recited in the claims be considered. Applicants believed that all questions raised by the Examiner have been addressed, but if there are any further questions, Applicants request that they be contacted for clarification.

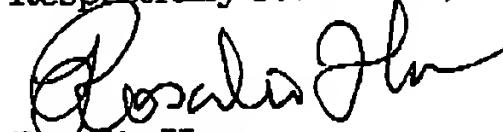
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In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully request favorable reconsideration of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,



Rosario Haro
Registration No. 42,633

Please address all correspondence to:

Epson Research and Development, Inc.
Intellectual Property Department
150 River Oaks Parkway, Suite 225
San Jose, CA 95134
Phone: (408) 952-6000
Facsimile: (408) 954-9058
Customer No. 20178

Date: December 14, 2004